



## The E-newsletter of the Mid-Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

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**Issue: 38**

**September 2014**

## MRMPO and MRCOG Transportation News

### Come Check out the ABQ CiQlovía!



Imagine having streets closed to automobiles for several hours, providing a safe place for people to walk, run, ride, and play. On Sunday, September 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., two miles of Albuquerque streets will be opened to people and closed to motor vehicles for ABQ CiQlovía.

ABQ CiQlovía is the Albuquerque version of the global phenomenon known as "ciclovía," or "open streets." Streets will be blocked off to vehicles, so people will be able to freely walk, bike, exercise, shop at local businesses, eat food from local food trucks and restaurants, and relax in a beautiful and historic part of Albuquerque.

The primary elements of ABQ CiQlovía are safe, fun outdoor recreation and economic development. Live music, food trucks, on-street yoga, art and a bike rodeo will be available throughout the day. More about this event can be found online at [ABQCiQlovia.org](http://ABQCiQlovia.org) as well as on [Facebook](#).

For ABQ CiQlovía, portions of Mountain Road, 14th Street and Alcalde Place will be closed to motor vehicle traffic. ([see map](#))

So...bring your family and friends, your bike, your dog, your skateboard, your walker, your frisbee, your chalk, your guitar, or just your good ol' self, and we'll see you there!

**Other  
Event  
Tidbits:**

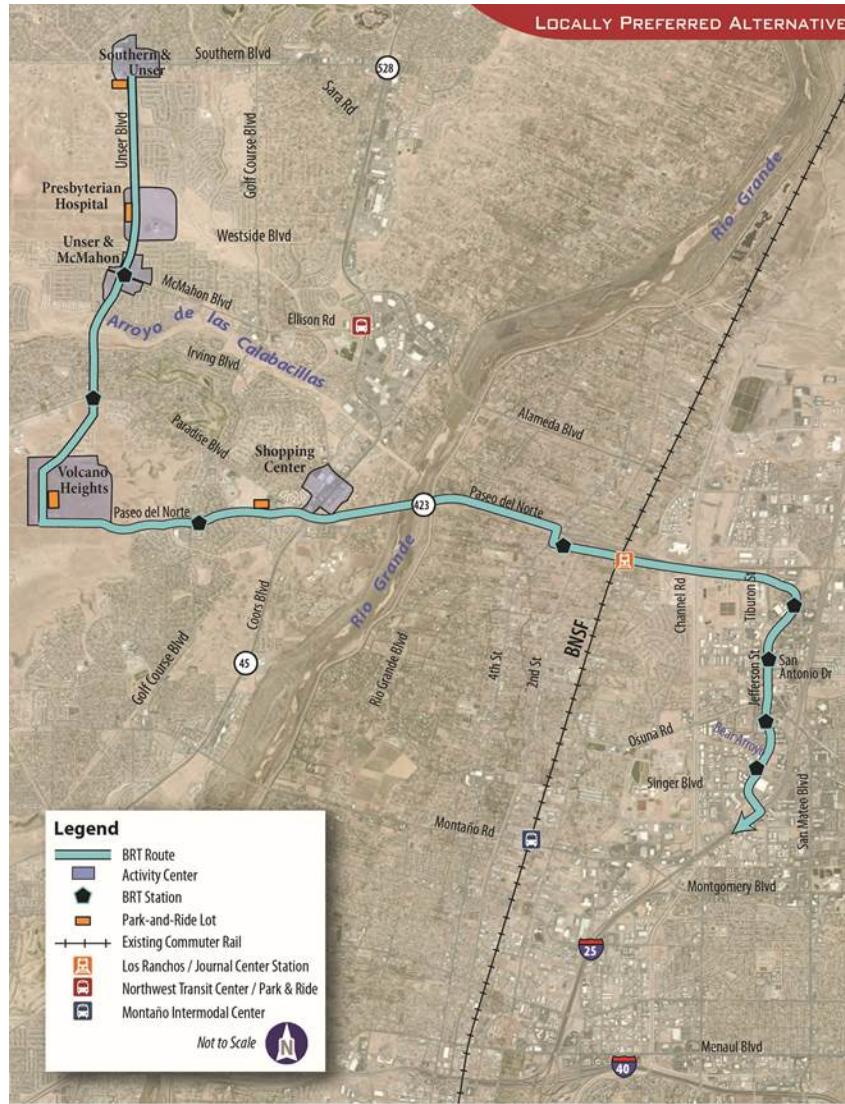


- Volunteers are still needed for this event, and if you want to get involved, please email [abqciqlovia@gmail.com](mailto:abqciqlovia@gmail.com).
- The event has a [fundraising site](#) that is accepting donations until Sept. 12.
- Organizers of the event were recently interviewed by KRQE Channel 13 news, and [the story](#) provides good background on the motivations for the event.

**Rio Metro Welcomes Public Comment on Draft Paseo del Norte High Capacity Transit Study Alternatives Analysis Report**

The Rio Metro Regional Transit District welcomes your questions and comments by September 19, 2014 on the Draft Paseo del Norte High Capacity Transit Study (HCTS) Alternatives Analysis Report. The report's goal is to identify how a high capacity transit system would use the Paseo del Norte river crossing to link northwest Albuquerque and southern Rio Rancho with the Journal Center, UNM, CNM, and other activity centers east of the Rio Grande. The need for such an alternative to single-occupancy vehicle travel is growing as congestion is anticipated to increase dramatically at all river crossings within the next 20 years. The draft report describes how a Bus Rapid Transit route that offers high-frequency service, guideways separate from vehicle traffic in key congested corridors, enhancements that improve boarding time and ride comfort, and connections to other bus, walking, biking, rail, and park-and-ride facilities can help meet the region's growing travel demands.

You can view the report and comment [here](#).



## Discounted Fair Pass Includes Transportation



The New Mexico Rail Runner Express has partnered with the New Mexico State Fair and ABQ RIDE on the first ever New Mexico State Fair pre-sale ticket. The Enchantment Day Pass will not only get you discounted admission to the Fair, it will also get you one free ride on the Rail Runner, and one free round-trip ABQ RIDE bus ride from the Downtown ABQ Rail Runner station to the Fair and back on any one day from September 10-21, 2014. The Enchantment Day Pass is on sale now through Friday, September 12 at all New Mexico Walgreens locations.

[Read More](#)

## September Calendar

Optimize Signals for Pedestrians and Bicyclists - Webinar (sponsored by the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals)	Sept. 17, 1:00-2pm	MRCOG First Floor Conference Room
San Pedro Mile-Hi District Public Meeting	Sept. 17, 6:30-8pm	Mesa Verde Community Center, 7900 Marquette Ave NE, ABQ, NM 87108
Metropolitan Transportation Board (MTB) Meeting	Sept. 19, 10:00am	MRCOG Board Room
Rio Metro Board Meeting	Sept. 19, 1:00pm	MRCOG Board Room
ABQ CiQlovia	Sept. 21, 10am-3pm	Mountain Rd and 14th St, Old Town and downtown ABQ <a href="#">(click here for map)</a>

## Transportation News

### San Pedro Mile-Hi District Public Meeting



The City of Albuquerque will be hosting a public meeting on proposed improvements for San Pedro Drive south of I-

40 and just north of Lomas (Haines Avenue and Marble Avenue are the exact north and south boundaries of the project). The project aims to revive the area with increased pedestrian safety, right-of-way configuration and improvements, and the creation of a bicycle hub. You can learn more about the project and offer feedback at the meeting. You can also find more information about this project [here](#).

## When

Sept. 17, 2014

6:30 PM - 08:00 PM

## Where

Mesa Verde Community Center

7900 Marquette Ave NE

Albuquerque, NM 87108



## September is National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month

National [Walk to School Day](#) is October 8. If you'd like to promote increased levels of daily activity for children, and thus healthier lifestyles, participating in the event is one way of doing that!

Here are some resources for promoting such an event at your school: 1) [Fire Up Your Feet](#) (a

good first stop for info and support which also includes [instructional videos](#)). 2) CLIF Kid offers a [free kit](#) to support your school's efforts; and 3) Register your event at [walkbiketoschool.org](http://walkbiketoschool.org).



Another great way to familiarize children with active forms of transportation is at Albuquerque's (and the region's) first-ever open streets event, the ABQ CiQlovia on September 21 (see information above).



## Transportation Feature Article

Special Informational Series on BRT, Part 4:

## Santa Clara BRT in the Works for Silicon Valley

(Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of articles on different Bus Rapid Transit systems across the country, as this type of mass transit is being looked at for our region. The City of Albuquerque is pursuing BRT on Central Avenue, and the Rio Metro Regional Transit District (RMRTD) is studying a University Boulevard BRT line. These lines would be developed as two parts of one system, with the possibility of enhanced transit in the future on Paseo del Norte, Coors Boulevard, and other corridors. Cities across the country and world are finding success with this mode of transportation, and their efforts at implementing BRT will be explored in this series of articles.)

### Peer City/County Profile: Santa Clara County

Population: 1.8 million

System Name: Santa Clara-Alum Rock BRT

Miles of service: ≈7.2 miles

Average Passengers per day: N/A

Bus Fleet: N/A

Busses per hour (peak frequency): Plans for stops to be served every 10 minutes

Although the Santa Clara BRT system has yet to become fully operational, the system on paper has already become a reality. A total of three BRT lines with dedicated bus lanes are currently planned to begin operation in early 2015. These lines would connect east San Jose to downtown as well as to the district's transit centers along the El Camino Real Corridor. The El Camino Real is a highly congested area in the region, and by adding a more efficient bus system along the corridor the Valley Transportation Authority hopes to curb decreasing drive times while also increasing safety for pedestrians and cyclists along the corridor. New hybrid buses with on board Wi-Fi capability will be commissioned to run along the corridor. There are currently 11 light rail-like stations planned along the El Camino Real corridor. The stations will include real time information, enhanced lighting and attractive shelters. The corridor will also be getting a face lift with the addition of pedestrian and bike improvements, new signaling, landscaping, and complete roadway resurfacing.

The Valley Transit Authority hopes that this initial BRT project will help innovate the transit landscape for the entire Silicon Valley.

Having the BRT

lines connect to the area's multiple transit modes will give passengers easy access to all places they want to go. Future BRT service and light



rail services are also being planned to help strengthen the overall system.

You can watch a video on the planned BRT [here](#).

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